



October 26, 2021

TO: Chair O'Malley and members of the House Transportation Committee

FROM: Amy Zaagman, Executive Director
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Re: HB 4983 and HB 4984

The Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health asks for your support on House Bills 4983 and 4984 to help ensure children are placed in the safest seats and restraints when riding in a motor vehicle in our state.

MCMCH membership is comprised of large hospital systems, statewide organizations and local entities with a mission to use their collective voice to help shape policy and legislation that impact maternal and child health in our state. Our membership includes some of the specialty pediatric providers who are often called on to care for children seriously injured in a motor vehicle crash. We believe HB 4983 and 4984 will help reduce these preventable injuries and deaths.

Thank you to Reps. Bronna Kahle and Cara Clemente for their interest and commitment to updating Michigan's child safety seat statute. Michigan's child safety seat statute is out-of-date with American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations and the National Highway Traffic Safety recommendations. Just as the range of car seats has evolved and grown to meet the research available, we need statute that reinforces strong standards and does not create confusion for parents and law enforcement.

Too many children are moved forward into seats that are not appropriate for their physical development and it leaves them more vulnerable. More than 100 children younger than 8 die in a crash in Michigan each year and while the number of children dying in vehicle crashes have trended downward in the past two decades largely because of safety measures and medical treatment, we cannot rest. I am a member of the Michigan Child Death Review State Team that studies data and trends in child deaths and makes recommendations, and we have consistently included measures such as HB's 4983 and 84 in our prevention recommendations.

Consistency of messaging is a major component to effective education and establishing healthy behaviors -- we want all parents to see and hear the safest ways to situate their children in a motor vehicle regardless of whether that information comes from their child's medical care provider, a certified safety seat inspector, a member of law enforcement or included in information provided by the manufacturer of their child's safety seat. HB 4983 and 84 ensure consistent messaging and also assure that parents who take action to put their child in the appropriate safety seat for their age and size will not be penalized.

We urge the House Transportation Committee to support these bills and help to advance a consistent message and help parents keep their children safe when they are on the road.

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Beaumont Children's Hospital

Children's Hospital of
Michigan/Detroit Medical Center

Henry Ford Health System

Hurley Medical Center

University of Michigan C.S. Mott
Children's Hospital and Von
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CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

Michigan Section, American
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